

# The Great Lakes New Zealand Mud Snail (NZMS) Collaborative

Meeting Minutes

**June 25, 2019**

10am-12pm

Location: Skype Call-in

365 Dodge Hall,

Oakland University

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>E-mail</u></b>   | <b><u>Affiliation</u></b> |
|--------------------|--|---------------------------|
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10:00 AM – Introductions made

## **Updates on Collaborative Partner Activities**

- Website
  - Live, basic content uploaded.
  - Members requested to contact about specific information to upload.
- Regional Outreach and Education (T. Campbell):
  - Grant to develop cards for anglers with general decontamination information.
    - One print run performed, sent to Sea Grant and Great Lakes extension network.
  - Funding available to: print and send signs for wading anglers, implement boot brush stations, develop four short PSA videos reaching out to anglers about how to clean their gear, and video advertising. Drafted scripts available.
    - Outreach focuses on continually reminding rather than educating.
    - Forward e-mail to Jeremy with products.
  - Trying to make targeting applicable between states, red and yellow sign awareness, general gear decontamination,
- Angler Survey
  - Study reports anglers tend to be aware of NZMS infestation. Fifty percent of aware anglers do not take decontamination actions.
    - (L. Nathan) Challenge of outreach continues to be behavior changes for spread prevention. Why would I decontaminate when others won't and continue the spread anyway?
  - Anglers and boater survey: lack of decontamination steps, aside from draining and drying, is related to tool access. Either forgetting or not having the proper equipment. Difficult to maintain available equipment at all access sites.
- Webinar series
  - Periodic webinars, multitude of presentations concerning NZMS.
  - Start scheduling for remainder of summer into the fall. Reach out if interested in presenting to get schedule going.

- Format most likely Web X. Tim has access to Zoom and offered to help set up, manage, and advertise.

## 2019 Outreach

### ➤ TU/OU (J. Geist):

- Continues to give public and membership workshops concerning NZMS and decontamination/monitoring strategies. Managing online e-newsletters.
- Generating pamphlet concerning: information on NZMS history and identification characteristics, how to decontaminate gear (specifically waders), and pushing Formula 409 as decontaminating agent. Funding for 5,000 copies. Hope to distribute by the end of the summer.
- Angler survey gone out past winter to TU base in Michigan and fly-fishing federation. Gauged willingness of anglers to participate in certain decontamination practices, based on different methods and recommendations, to find optimal and convenient methods. Currently processing a few hundred responses.
- Finishing awareness video, will post on TU and collaborative websites and YouTube.

### ➤ MI DNR (S. Herbst):

- Conversation needed on reviewing discussed documents. Concern with Formula 409 phrasing.
- Scott to send pamphlet to Seth and Lucas for review. Work with internal Department of Agriculture. Stay in contact as outreach materials get finalized.

### ➤ WI DNR/UW-Ext (T. Campbell):

- Continued evaluation of outreach approaches.
- Graduate student fishing up projects.
- Working on wading-angler pathway, same evaluation as done for boaters. Survey sent out to random sample of those who purchased trout passes. Plan to have survey put together for Sept.-October. Will keep members updated on progress.

## 2019 Monitoring

- (J. Geist): TU continuing workshops throughout state. Short training for visual assessment developed by EGLE, combined with eDNA water sampling. Planning on visiting: Black River, Upper Peninsula, and Upper Lower Peninsula.
- (L. Nathan): Both fixed and random sampling in same areas as 2015. Expanded sampling of basin and habitat diversity.
- (B. Keas): No volunteer monitoring at Au Sable. Institute participates in My Corps program at Manistee River. Trying to integrate NZMS monitoring into established programs. Working with the Huron River Watershed Council, Clinton River Watershed Council, and Upper Manistee River Association.
- (S. Tieg): eDNA protocols developed for sampling, kits available to send.

## Finishing Partner Updates

- (B. Keas): Three years at Au Sable Institute in Mancelona. Boardman River monitoring of benthic-macros as part of dam project. Funding from TU and restoration project. Sample sites up-and-down stream of dams, monitor restoration. Small non-profit, works with small Christian colleges to have a field station experience. Work with local projects to get them research experience.
  - 2016 researchers noticed large uptake in snails in sample, identified as NZMS. Retroactively found NZMS in previous samples up to 2013. Cobble-riffle habitats, about 1,000 ind./m<sup>2</sup>. Peak in 2016, seemed to level off in 2018 data.
- (L. Nathan): Sam (MSU) has manuscript in progress, continuing surveillance work and angler decontamination survey. Methods will be shared as completed.
  - Work with western states concerning: outreach, prevention methods, data collection, and hindsight information to guide work in Michigan. Reaching out to specific individuals and agencies. Working with the Western Regional Panel of the USFWS.
    - Interested in receiving questions from members to pass along.
- (T. Campbell): Two new streams confirmed in Wisconsin; one is a class-one trout stream near Black Earth Creek. Found in old sample, approx. 2018. Detected through routine sampling, general approach.

- Will forward e-mail with location information to Scott to add to current map.
- (S. Tiegs): No new detections in Michigan, however, seeing steady increase in NZMS, densities over 100,000 ind./m<sup>2</sup> and expecting numbers to increase.
  - Not much spread in other Au Sable locations. East Branch seeing seasonal boom-bust cycle variation.
  - Trout sampling observing increase in consumption as NZMS populations increase. Does not appear to affect the health at this time, further research needed. Fish survey will be conducted by OU in August.
- (M. Luttenton): Noticed in East Branch samples that NZMS are able to survive winter fairly well. Populations sustain, as opposed to die-offs, like other snail species. Interested in 2019 winter sample results, due to the cold spell.
  - Winter samples missed, might see effect in spring (May) samples. Might hold off on August samples since OU is sampling then.
  - S. Tiegs interested in seeing effects of hatchery management; specifically, with phosphorous, a suspected driving factor of NZMS growth.
- (J. Geist): Michigan council of TU received recommendation for vinegar and bleach-based decontamination strategies.

### **Future Efforts/Actions**

- Continue to reach out to other organizations and individuals. NZMS occurrence reported in New Jersey.
- Send announcement for webinars and follow-up on materials discussed.
- Send Doodle poll to schedule for fall meeting.

11 AM—Meeting adjourns